



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS  
425 Eye Street N.W.  
ULLB, 3rd Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE: [Redacted] Office: Harlingen Date:

AUG 22 2000

IN RE: Obligor:  
Bonded Alien:



IMMIGRATION BOND: Bond Conditioned for the Delivery of an Alien under § 103 of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1103

IN BEHALF OF OBLIGOR: Self-represented

**Public Copy**

Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,  
EXAMINATIONS

Terrance M. O'Reilly, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the District Director, Harlingen, Texas, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The record indicates that on September 28, 1999 the obligor posted a \$3,000 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated May 8, 2000 was sent to the obligor via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (the Service) for removal at 10:00 a.m. on June 8, 2000 at PISPC, Route 3, Box 341, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On June 12, 2000, the district director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, the obligor asserts that the alien failed to stay in communication with the obligor and failed to keep the obligor updated as to the alien's whereabouts. The obligor requests that the bond be cancelled for its substantial performance.

Delivery bonds are violated if the obligor fails to cause the bonded alien to be produced or to produce himself/herself to an immigration officer or immigration judge, as specified in the appearance notice, upon each and every written request until removal proceedings are finally terminated, or until the said alien is actually accepted by the Service for detention or removal. Matter of Smith, 16 I&N Dec. 146 (Reg. Comm. 1977).

The regulations provide that an obligor shall be released from liability where there has been "substantial performance" of all conditions imposed by the terms of the bond. 8 C.F.R. 103.6(c)(3). A bond is breached when there has been a substantial violation of the stipulated conditions of the bond. 8 C.F.R. 103.6(e).

8 C.F.R. 103.5a(a)(2) provides that personal service may be effected by any of the following:

- (i) Delivery of a copy personally;
- (ii) Delivery of a copy at a person's dwelling house or usual place of abode by leaving it with some person of suitable age and discretion;
- (iii) Delivery of a copy at the office of an attorney or other person including a corporation, by leaving it with a person in charge;
- (iv) Mailing a copy by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to a person at his last known address.

The bond (Form I-352) provides in pertinent part that the obligor "agrees that any notice to him/her in connection with this bond may be accomplished by mail directed to him/her at the above address."

In this case, the Form I-352 listed [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the obligor's address.

Contained in the record is a certified mail receipt which indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien was sent to the obligor at [REDACTED] on May 8, 2000. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien for removal on June 8, 2000. The receipt also indicates the obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on May 15, 2000. Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the district director properly served notice on the obligor in compliance with 8 C.F.R. 103.5a(a)(2)(iv).

Furthermore, it is clear from the language used in the bond agreement that the obligor shall cause the alien to be produced or the alien shall produce himself to a Service officer upon each and every request of such officer until removal proceedings are either finally terminated or the alien is accepted by the Service for detention or removal.

"Substantial performance" exists where there has been no willful departure from the terms or conditions of a bond, where the conditions have been honestly and faithfully complied with and the only variance from their strict and actual performance consists of technical or unimportant occurrences. "Substantial violation" exists where there is a willful departure from the terms or conditions of the bond or the failure to comply or adhere to the essential elements of those terms or conditions. See Matter of Nguyen, 15 I&N Dec. 176 (Reg. Comm. 1975); Matter of Arbelaez-Naranjo, 18 I&N Dec. 403 (Reg. Comm. 1983).

Where there is a variance from the strict and literal performance of the conditions of a delivery bond, an obligor must establish substantial performance which is of benefit to the government. Proceedings regarding administrative cancellation of removal before a district director or the Board of Immigration Appeals are set forth by regulation. See 8 C.F.R. 241.6.

Failure of the obligor to seek an administrative cancellation of removal from either the district director or the Board of Immigration Appeals prior to the day demanded for the alien's delivery and surrender, is ample evidence that the conditions of the bond were not accidentally violated.

In Matter of Allied Fidelity Insurance Company, 19 I&N Dec. 124 (Comm. 1984), it was held that determining whether a violation is "substantial" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. 103.6(e) requires consideration of the following factors:

- (a) Extent of the breach;
- (b) Whether the violation was intentional or accidental on the part of the alien;

(c) Whether the actions which constitute the violation were committed in good faith; and

(d) Whether the alien took steps to made amends, or to put himself in compliance.

Following the guidelines contained in Matter of Allied Fidelity Insurance Company, the violation was intentional because the bonded alien absconded and made the demand upon him impossible by her own actions. See Matter of S-, 3 I&N Dec. 813 (C.O. 1949). The alien's actions in the present matter were not committed in good faith, and he failed to take steps to put herself in compliance. Such action demonstrates a complete absence of good faith on the part of the bonded alien as held in Matter of Allied Fidelity Insurance Company.

Pursuant to the Amwest/Reno Settlement Agreement, entered into on June 22, 1995 by the Service and Far West Surety Insurance Company, the Service agreed that a properly completed questionnaire would be attached to all Form I-340s (Notices to Surrender) going to the obligor on a surety bond. The failure to attach the questionnaire would result in rescission of any breach related to that Form I-340. A properly completed questionnaire must include a copy of any picture of the alien found in the Service file.

Based on the provisions of the Amwest Agreement and the fact that the record fails to show that a properly completed questionnaire was sent to the obligor, the appeal will be sustained and the district director's decision declaring the bond breached will be withdrawn and the bond will be continued in full force and effect.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The district director's decision declaring the bond breached is withdrawn and the bond is continued in full force and effect.